

# ELKSTONE NEWSLETTER



February is our shortest month and we have an extra day as 2024 is a Leap Year.

A Date has been set for Open Gardens on 23 June 2024, and over the next few months you will be kept updated on how the plans are proceeding. Perhaps you would like to be involved, whether opening your garden, or supporting a friend who is opening, or baking and volunteering. The more hands the merrier!

The Village Hall can be booked for parties, get togethers or coffee mornings, as well as all the regular events. There are special rates for villagers and village events, and all the details are on our village website [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com)

Editor: Carole Bury email: [editor@elkstonevillage.com](mailto:editor@elkstonevillage.com)

Deadline for next newsletter 20 February 2023

## Features

- Elkstone Open Gardens - 23 June 2024
- Yoga Class 19 February – new 6 week course begins
- Snowdrop Season
- Winstone and District WI
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Coberley School

## Regular Village Hall Activities

Indoor Bowls	Every Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ronnie Bury – 870493 or Martyn Wylie – 870441
Art Club	Every Thursday, 9am-1pm	Penny Casewell – 03330 119663
Yoga	Every Monday, 10.00 – 11.00am	Emma Lowther – 07967 215569

## Recycling

All Recycling, Refuse and Garden, bins and bags	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Food Caddy	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February

*Continues overleaf. . .*

### **Elkstone Parish Church Services**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – 11am Morning Worship

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – 11am Morning Worship

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – 11am Holy Communion

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February – 11.00am Service at Rendcomb Church

### **Cockleford Bridge – Green Dragon**

31st January to 2nd February inclusive.

24/7 road closure for bridge repairs. From the main road, A435, to the road to Cowley Manor opposite the Green Dragon,

Gloucestershire County Council will shortly be undertaking repairs to strengthen Cockleford Bridge. To maintain a safe working zone and pedestrian access, we will need to close the road with a 24/7 closure in place for the duration of works.

Philippa Lowery Supervisor email: [Highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## **Elkstone Open Gardens 23 June 2024**

The 2024 Elkstone Open Gardens will take place on Sunday 23rd June 2-6pm.

We hope this year's event will be the popular, joyful event we've hosted collectively in previous years.

Please put the date in your diaries.

Many thanks to Amy McDonald for taking the reins with the organisation of this event. Further information will follow in the coming months.

Nic Ricketts

### **Bell Ringing**

Please note the following times and dates when there will be Bell Ringing.

Some Monday evenings in January/ February/ March 2024

Saturday 22nd June 4-6pm - I will remind you all about these dates

## **Weekly Yoga class in the Village Hall**

Slow Flow Yoga Class with Emma in the Village Hall every Monday morning from 10am to 11am.

Cost is £60.00 for a six week course of classes, or £12.00 drop in.

The new 6 week Yoga Course begins in the Village Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Emma has been teaching since April 2021. She completed her 200HR Yoga Teacher Training with Yoga Like Water in Cornwall and has been a full time Yoga teacher since. Still a keen student herself, Emma attends classes each week with her teachers Vettri Selvan (Traditional Therapeutic Yoga) and Cristina Chandikama. Emma teaches a range of classes from Vinyasa flow to Restorative to Meditation. Her students range from 5 to 85 years of age! She continues to practice and teach with humour, gratitude and a lovely smile. Emma Lowther [emlowther@hotmail.com](mailto:emlowther@hotmail.com) 07967 215569

## **Snowdrops: The Crown Jewels of the Winter Garden**

The number of new cultivars of Snowdrops, or *Galanthus* to give them their Latin scientific name, continues to grow. All these are propagated in specialist nurseries in a very intensive process, which is included in the price. Many of these bulbs sell for hundreds of pounds, some even more than a thousand when first introduced. Others occur spontaneously and are then discovered in gardens and launched as special hybrids.

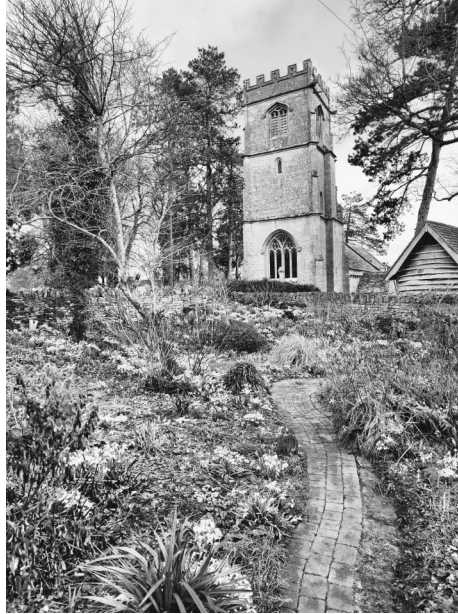
The variation between the *Galanthus* species, hybrids and cultivars can be quite subtle. It depends on the colour and form of the leaves, shape of the inner and outer petals, and how they are marked in green, but sometimes yellow or pale orange in highly prized selections. These special beauties are obsessing more and more people, which tend to put prices even higher for the latest and greatest introductions of shape and colour. Those who love and collect these different forms are often known as “Galanthophiles”.

For everyone though, there is no more heartening sight towards the end of winter than a mass of the common species, *Galanthus nivalis*, on a sunny day. They also provide early food for pollinators coming out of hibernation if the weather is warm enough. These are not native species though and some think the Romans may have brought them to Britain.

The churchyard of St John’s, Elkstone has spectacular display of mostly *Galanthus nivalis*, which is now starting to bloom and will last into early March. These must have been planted originally many decades or longer ago, and have now spread to all corners in picturesque clumps amongst the historic gravestones. Appreciation of the display is now growing internationally with Galanthophiles of Germany and the Netherlands making repeat visits this February to Elkstone as a part of their UK snowdrop

garden trails. Members of the church will host the visitors who always donate generously towards the maintenance of the church and its churchyard.

Be sure to catch this special display too with your camera as it reaches its peak in the month of February. Brian Howlett



## **Winstone and District WI**

### **Small but Perfectly Formed**

We are not a large group in number but Members are fun AND welcoming.

Yes, we have Speakers at our meetings, all interesting - the Wildlife Trust at our next one - but we also have plenty of other things going on.

We meet for coffee and we play skittles (badly).

Our Coronation Supper was followed by creations in 25m of tulle (no pins allowed); the Garden Party (laughingly described as it was pouring with rain) was inside, with a Bring and Share Supper and afterwards a Beetle Drive.

We raised over £400 with a Pudding Evening in aid of the Stroud Women's Refuge (the only one now left in the County). This was very popular indeed, with requests to repeat it this year.

Our Christmas Fair made over £800.

We have now put forward a Local Resolution, which has been accepted by the Gloucestershire Federation, for a County-wide Campaign for Litter Picking. with every WI in the County keeping an area clear of rubbish.

It was the WI who launched the 'Keep Britain Tidy' Campaign in 1954. So we are hoping that the '54 to 24' will be as effective.

So, we may be small in numbers but we have plenty going on and if anyone would like to come along to a sample meeting, you would be warmly greeted. We meet in Winstone Village Hall at 7.30pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month and our next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

You will be very welcome indeed.

**'The WI Inspiring Women'**

### **Coberley School**

Our local primary school, Coberley C of E, has educated many children from Elkstone since our own village school shut around 60 years ago.

Currently we only have one child from Elkstone attending Coberley School as so many have recently grown and flown the primary nest, heading off to Kingshill, Deer Park, Denmark Road, Pates, Kings, Cheltenham College and many more.

With an annual intake of just 10 children, Coberley School offers a traditional village school experience, with each child enjoying a personalised learning and development plan thanks to a greater staff to children ratio than the average primary school. A recent Ofsted inspection praised Coberley's child-centred approach, highlighting how 'pupils thrive at Coberley', there is 'an ambitious curriculum', and 'the school aspires for every child to do their best'.

The school currently has 70 pupils, proving demand from far beyond its rural catchment area, however places do open up from time to time for in-year admissions and a new intake is allocated each April. If you are interested in your child attending Coberley, please do contact the school on [admin@coberley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@coberley.gloucs.sch.uk) for a look around and for a chat with the Acting Headteacher, Mrs Black.



**I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?**

The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include who you owe money to, when you first missed a payment, and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the person or company has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

**You can find further advice on dealing with debts**, as well as support for energy and living costs, and possible benefit entitlement, on the Citizens Advice website – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers.

If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)).

*Facebook: CitizensAdviceStroudCotswolds Twitter: @AdviceStroudCotswold*

### **Cotswold Cross Sportive**

There will be plenty of cyclists going through the village and area on Sunday 24th March as Cotswold Cross Sportive are running their annual charity ride to earn money for The National Star Centre.

More details in next month's Newsletter.